

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:** Please amend the claims as follows:

We claim:

**Claim 1. (Currently Amended)** A method for the detection of antigen-specific T lymphocytes ~~following activation of said T lymphocytes with an antigen~~, comprising  
~~stimulating~~ activating said T lymphocytes with an antigen; ~~in the presence of a CD40/CD154 system inhibitor which blocks or inhibits the interaction between CD40 and CD154 thereby preventing the lowering of the level of said CD154 inside or outside the T lymphocytes~~  
blocking or inhibiting the interaction between CD40 and CD154 with an anti-CD40 antibody or an anti-CD154 antibody; and  
detecting the ~~level~~[C1] expression of CD154 on T-lymphocytes using an antibody directed against CD154.

**Claim 2. (Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, comprising detecting CD4<sup>+</sup> or CD8<sup>+</sup> T lymphocytes which express said CD154.

**Claim 3. (Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the detected T lymphocyte cells comprise inflammatory, anti-inflammatory, regulatory or suppressive T lymphocytes which express said CD154.

**Claim 4. (Currently Amended)** A method for the isolation of antigen-specific T lymphocyte cells in a suspension ~~following activation of said T lymphocytes with an antigen~~, comprising  
~~stimulating~~ activating said T lymphocytes with an antigen; ~~in the presence of a CD40/CD154 system inhibitor which blocks or inhibits the interaction between CD40 and CD154, thereby preventing the lowering of the level of said CD154 inside or outside the T lymphocyte~~  
blocking or inhibiting the interaction between CD40 and CD154 with an anti-CD40 antibody or an anti-CD154 antibody; and  
determining intracellular or extracellular CD154 ~~levels using~~ expression on T lymphocytes with an antibody directed against CD154; ~~and~~ wherein  
isolating T-lymphocyte cells having CD154 ~~are isolated~~.

**Claim 5. (Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 4, comprising isolating CD4<sup>+</sup> or CD8<sup>+</sup> T lymphocytes which express said CD154.

**Claim 6. (Cancelled)**

**Claim 7. (Cancelled)**

**Claim 8. (Cancelled)**

**Claim 9. (Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 4, comprising detecting said intracellular or extracellular CD154 levels in or on vital cells.

**Claim 10. (Withdrawn)** The method according to claim 4, comprising isolating or separating T lymphocytes lacking a defined cytokine pattern.

**Claim 11. (Cancelled)**

**Claim 12. (Cancelled)**

**Claim 13. (Withdrawn)** An antigen-specific T-lymphocyte cell detected or isolated using the method of claim 4.

**Claim 14. (Withdrawn)** A method for the preventive or causal treatment of infectious, allergic, inflammatory, malignant or autoimmune disease comprising administering to a subject in need thereof the antigen-specific T-lymphocyte cell of claim 13.

**Claim 15. (Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 1, comprising detecting the ~~level~~<sup>[C2]</sup> expression of CD154 with a CD154-specific monoclonal antibody.

**Claim 16. (Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 1, further comprising detecting T lymphocytes as antigen specific by determining that said T lymphocytes exhibit a higher ~~level~~<sup>[C3]</sup> expression of said CD154 following ~~stimulation~~ activation compared to a control population of T lymphocytes that have not been ~~activated~~ stimulated.

**Claim 17. (Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 4, further comprising isolating said T lymphocytes which exhibit a higher ~~level~~<sup>[C4]</sup> expression of said CD154 following ~~stimulation~~ activation compared to a control population of T lymphocytes that have not been

activated ~~stimulated~~.

**Claim 18. (Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody, a polyclonal antibody, an antibody fragment which specifically binds to said CD154, a specifically modified antibody or an antibody associated with a phage or a fragment of said phage-associated antibody.

**Claim 19. (Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 4, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody, a polyclonal antibody, an antibody fragment which specifically binds to said CD154, a specifically modified antibody or an antibody associated with a phage or a fragment of said phage-associated antibody.

**Claim 20. (Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the anti-CD40 antibody or the anti-CD154 antibody ~~prevents CD40/CD154 system inhibitor is an antibody which blocks or inhibits the interaction between CD40 and CD154 thereby preventing the lowering of the level[C5] expression of said CD154 inside or outside the~~ on said T lymphocytes.

**Claim 21. (Cancelled)**

**Claim 22. (Cancelled)**

**Claim 23. (Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the T lymphocytes are provided in a cell suspension.

**Claim 24. (Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the anti-CD40 antibody or the anti-CD154 antibody ~~CD40/CD154 system inhibitor which blocks or inhibits the interaction between CD40 and CD154 prevents degradation of said CD154 inside or outside the~~ on said T lymphocyte.

**Claim 25. (Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 4, wherein the anti-CD40 antibody or the anti-CD154 antibody ~~CD40/CD154 system inhibitor which blocks or inhibits the interaction between CD40 and CD154 prevents degradation of said CD154 inside or outside the~~ on said T lymphocyte.

**Claim 26. (Cancelled)**

**Claim 27. (New)** The method according to claim 4, wherein the anti-CD40 antibody or the anti-CD154 antibody prevents the lowering of the expression of said CD154 on said T lymphocytes.